
Introduced by Senators O'Connell and Kopp
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bordonaro and Firestone)

March 9, 1998

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 79—Relative to California Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 79, as introduced, O'Connell. California Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall.

This measure would dedicate the portion of State Highway Route 166 from Route 101 near Santa Maria to Route 33 in the Cuyama Valley to the memory of California Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall and would specify that that portion of Route 166 shall be known as the "Irvine-Stovall Memorial Highway." The measure also would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate highway markers or signs showing that special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources concerning that cost, to erect appropriate highway markers and signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, During the dark, early morning of
2 February 24, 1998, a single patrol unit carrying California
3 Highway Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B.
4 Stovall, who were responding to an emergency call,
5 plunged off the eastbound lane of State Highway Route
6 166, that had been washed out as a result of heavy rainfall,

1 approximately 12 miles east of State Highway Route 101
2 along the Cuyama River; and

3 WHEREAS, The vehicle was carried downstream in
4 the raging Cuyama River waters with mud and debris
5 trapping the officers inside; and

6 WHEREAS, Subsequently, the officers' patrol unit was
7 first spotted upside down in the mud by a California
8 Highway Patrol helicopter; and

9 WHEREAS, After more than four hours of rescue
10 efforts, it was determined that, tragically, Officers Irvine
11 and Stovall were deceased; and

12 WHEREAS, Officer Britt T. Irvine was born in Denver,
13 Colorado, and he was 40 years old and had been a
14 uniformed officer of the Department of the California
15 Highway Patrol since May of 1983; and

16 WHEREAS, Officer Irvine was assigned to the El
17 Centro, San Jose, and Marin areas before his assignment
18 to Santa Maria in September of 1990; and

19 WHEREAS, Officer Irvine leaves behind two stepsons
20 and one stepdaughter and his parents; and

21 WHEREAS, Officer Rick B. Stovall was born in
22 Crescent City, California, and he was 39 years old and was
23 appointed as an officer of the department in August of
24 1980; and

25 WHEREAS, Officer Stovall was assigned to the West
26 Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Crescent City, and San Luis
27 Obispo areas before his assignment to Santa Maria in
28 February of 1991; and

29 WHEREAS, Officer Stovall leaves behind his wife, son,
30 and daughter, and his father, who is a retired California
31 Highway Patrol officer; and

32 WHEREAS, Both Officers Irvine and Stovall were
33 known for their dedication to the Department of the
34 California Highway Patrol and to the protection of the
35 citizens of our state; and

36 WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the portion of State
37 Highway Route 166 from Route 101 near Santa Maria to
38 Route 33 in the Cuyama Valley be dedicated to the
39 memory of Officer Britt T. Irvine and Officer Rick B.

1 Stovall who made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to
2 the people of California; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved, by the Senate of the State of California, the*
4 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature
5 hereby dedicates the portion of State Highway Route 166
6 from Route 101 near Santa Maria to Route 33 in the
7 Cuyama Valley to the memory of California Highway
8 Patrol Officers Britt T. Irvine and Rick B. Stovall; and be
9 it further

10 *Resolved,* That that portion of State Highway Route 166
11 shall be known as the “Irvine-Stovall Memorial
12 Highway”; and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is
14 requested to determine the cost of erecting the
15 appropriate plaques and markers, consistent with the
16 signing requirements for the state highway system,
17 showing the special designation, and upon receiving
18 donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to
19 erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

20 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
21 copies of this resolution to the Department of
22 Transportation and to the author for appropriate
23 distribution.

